

IX. LAND ACQUISITION

CURRENT ACQUISITION STATUS

Fort Fisher State Recreation Area consists of 287 acres that lie along the ocean beach. The park is important in protecting one of the few remaining undeveloped stretches of shoreline on North Carolina's southern coast. Along with the ocean beach, the park contains a variety of other maritime habitats including sandbars and intertidal pools, maritime forest, evergreen shrub thickets and salt marsh habitats.

In addition to the state recreation area lands, park staff manages the nearby Bald Head Island State Natural Area that includes all of Bluff Island, about five miles of ocean beach strand, and land at the actual point of Cape Fear on the southeastern tip of Bald Head Island (Figure IX-1). The marsh areas of Bald Head Island State Natural Area are managed by the Wildlife Resources Commission under a memorandum of agreement with the Division of Parks and Recreation. State recreation area staff also actively manage the ocean beach portion of the Zeke's Island Estuarine Research Reserve under a memorandum of understanding with the Division of Coastal Management.

FUTURE ACQUISITION NEEDS

The Division of Parks and Recreation would like to expand the state recreation area, but unfortunately no land is available for additional facility development or resource protection. Therefore, no land acquisition for these purposes is proposed. There is a need for ranger housing at the recreation area because of the 24-hour beach access (see discussion in Chapter VIII). If suitable existing housing becomes available near the recreation area, the Division may pursue its acquisition at some future date.

ACQUISITION SUMMARY

Current size of the state recreation area (January 2007): 287 acres

01/07



**Fort Fisher
State Recreation Area**

- [Light Green Box] Division of Parks & Recreation
- [Dark Blue Box] North Carolina Aquarium
- [Hatched Box] Dept. of Cultural Resources
- [Dotted Box] Division of Coastal Management
- [Orange Box] Dept. of Transportation

2000 0 2000 4000 6000 Feet

0.5 0 0.5 1 Miles



Division of Parks and Recreation

Figure IX-1.